

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 PC-04 /121 W

----- 098635

R 141920Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2462

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GT

SUBJECT: RIOS MONTT APPARENTLY CONCEDES

1. ON MARCH 13, OPPOSITION FRONT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE APPARENTLY CONCEDED DEFEAT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD WEAR STRICT MOURNING CLOTHES SHOWING HIS "PEACEFUL RESISTANCE" TO GOG IMPOSITION. HE NOTED THAT PEOPLE HAD NOT RESPONDED TO HIS CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE TO PARALYZE COUNTRY. HE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN GUATEMALA BECAUSE HE "DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO GO TO EL SALVADOR." RIOS SAID HE REMAINED A PERSONAL FRIEND OF LAUGERUD, WHO HE ASSERTED HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FRAUD CARRIED OUT BY MLN. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY PUBLIC POSITION; BUT IF RECALLED TO SERVE BY THE ARMY COMMAND, HE WOULD ACCEPT.

2. RIOS DECLARED THAT "MANY WOULD HAVE LIKED HIM TO
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ORDER SUBVERSION" AGAINST THE GOG BUT HE OPPOSED THAT.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT HAVE PROMOTED A COUP D'ETAT BY THE ARMY BECAUSE THAT WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED PATRICIDE FOR HIM. RIOS ALSO DECLARED THAT HE WAS NOT SAD BUT ONLY SHAMED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, AND THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT HE WON THE ELECTIONS.

3. COMMENT: RIOS' PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARS TO REMOVE HIM FROM ANY POSITION OF EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT. INDEED, HIS REMARK CONCERNING RECALL TO ARMY ALMOST APPEARS AS THOUGH HE WERE FISHING FOR AN APPOINTMENT. MELOY

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005